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Dear Colleagues

This is proving to be a very busy spring, which means that KYAE is moving full steam ahead on several initiatives for the coming fiscal year. We're planning special regional meetings in May to discuss policy changes and the 2007-08 grant continuation requirements. Program directors will receive e-mails on registering themselves and their staff for the meetings. Dates and county locations for the meetings are below.

- May 11 - Region 6, Perry County
- May 14 - Region 3, Hardin County
- May 15 - Region 4, Northern Kentucky
- May 17 - Region 1, McCracken County
- May 18 - Region 2, Warren County
- May 24 - Region 5, Fayette County

In partnership with you, our provider community, we are looking forward to being able to turn a more concentrated focus on student outcomes in the next and coming years. These important meetings will provide us all the opportunity to discuss changes that will help us refocus on learning achievement. It's an exciting new start!



Save the date for KYAE Regional Conferences

Dates and locations have been set for the 2007 KYAE Regional Conferences - information is below and posted on [KYAE's Web site](#). The Web site also has information about hotel accommodations and PDUs.

Please remember to mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this very important professional development and networking opportunity...plus lots of good food and fellowship.

- Region 3 Conference on August 16 and 17, Brown Hotel, Louisville
- Regions 4, 5 and 6 Conference on August 23 and 24, Griffin Gate Marriott Resort, Lexington
- Regions 1 and 2 Conference on September 6 and 7, Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel, Bowling Green

KYAE is planning sessions covering topics such as teaching strategies for reading and math, using data, learning disabilities, GED testing, family literacy, assessments and learning styles. AERIN training for new and current users will be delivered at the conferences.

Learning for Life Awards

To recognize excellence in the adult education system, KYAE has created new Learning for Life Awards to be presented at the 2007 Regional Conferences. We plan to present six regional winners in each category. KYAE-funded local programs or employees may make nominations.

Please take the time to read through the awards criteria and nominate a fellow adult educator, a deserving student or GED graduate, and a business or organization that has been an important supporter in your community.

Specifics are posted on [KYAE's Web site](#); the entry deadline is **May 15**. The award categories are as follows:

- The **Learning for Life 110% Award** honors meritorious service or achievement and recognizes individuals who have served their communities, students and adult education programs in an outstanding manner. Program directors, instructors, instructor's aides and clerks in KYAE-funded programs are eligible.
- The **Learning for Life Student of the Year Award** recognizes a student who has overcome significant obstacles or is making great progress in achieving his or her educational goals or who has been a role model for his or her children and/or other adult education students. Students who are enrolled in a KYAE-funded program during the 2006-07 fiscal year are eligible nominees.
- The **Learning for Life GED Achievement Award** honors a Kentuckian who earned his or her GED and, as a result, has made significant contributions to the community, economy or workforce. Kentuckians who earned a GED prior to 1997 are eligible for this award.
- The **Learning for Life Champion Award** recognizes businesses or organizations that have made significant contributions to raising the educational level of Kentucky adults. Eligible nominees are businesses or organizations that sponsored, funded or coordinated an initiative that supports or promotes adult education in Kentucky.

Survey for GED students

The Council on Postsecondary Education is preparing to launch a statewide College Access Campaign to bring attention to postsecondary education. Part of the campaign will target adult education students and GED graduates.

To inform the campaign, KYAE has prepared a Web-based survey for GED graduates or students who are close to earning a GED. Participants are asked to complete a brief survey that will take approximately 10 minutes. They will be asked for opinions on college costs, financial aid, barriers and other topics.

Please encourage your students to visit www.kyae.ky.gov/survey and take a few minutes to make their voices heard. Thanks for your help with this important topic.

ESL assessment reminder

As of June 30, 2007, the BEST Oral assessment will no longer be recognized as an approved assessment because it has been discontinued by the publisher. Programs should plan to transition students to the BEST Plus as soon as possible. Level gains cannot be demonstrated with an initial assessment on BEST Oral and a post-assessment using BEST Plus.

The BEST Literacy assessment will remain an approved assessment. The publisher, the Center for Applied Linguistics, revised the BEST Literacy and currently sells only the revised version. If your program still has a supply of the previous BEST Literacy, it is permissible to use the old and new versions interchangeably to pre- and post-assess.

If you have questions, please contact Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 118.

ESL PD opportunities

Upcoming ESL PD opportunities are listed below. For more information, contact Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 118. Please use [PDtrack](#) to register.

BEST Plus Implementation, April 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Frankfort

BEST Plus is an individually administered oral interview designed to assess English language proficiency of adult English language students. This training is required before utilizing the BEST Plus. (CAL no longer offers training on the BEST assessment and recommends that programs transition to the BEST Plus). This six-hour training includes an overview, introduction to scoring, practice scoring, practice test administration and a Q & A session. New ESL instructors hired after March 31, 2006, are required to take either this course or the BEST Plus Implementation Workshop as a part of their ESL Specialty Track. New ESL instructors hired after March 31, 2006, are required to take either this course or the CASAS Implementation Workshop as a part of their ESL Specialty Track.

CASAS Implementation, April 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Marydale

This workshop introduces CASAS for ESL. Instructors will learn how to assess, monitor and document student progress using CASAS and will learn how to link assessment to curriculum and instruction. The course emphasis is on reading and listening for the ESL student. New ESL instructors hired after March 31, 2006, are required to take either this course or the BEST Plus Implementation Workshop as a part of their ESL Specialty Track.

Refresher on BEST Plus and BEST Literacy, May 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Georgetown

Part One: This workshop includes a refresher of the BEST Plus Test, CD-ROM, score report and print-based test. Activities include hands-on use of the computer-based software, possible “live” testing situation and review of the scoring refresher workshop.

Part Two: The print-based BEST Literacy assessment is a competency-based assessment that measures functional literacy skills of adult English language students. It is administered individually or to groups. Part Two of this training walks through the BEST Literacy components –introduction, administration, scoring and interpretation of results – and a discussion of the BEST Plus versus the BEST Literacy. This course does not take the place of the IT and ESL 400 is a pre-requisite for this workshop.

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KYAE Second Annual ESL Meeting, August 6 – 7, Louisville.

Two nationally-recognized ESL trainers will present:

Lynda Terrill will model and facilitate two sessions on teaching reading to the lower level ESL student. Lynda is the technical assistance and Web coordinator for the Center for Adult English Language Acquisition (CAELA) and National Center for ESL Literacy Education (NCLE), Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC. She has more than 22 years experience working with both native and non-native speakers of English in literacy, workplace, family literacy, academic and special needs venues. She is co-author of *Collaborations: English in Our Lives* (Heinle) and author of *Community Experiences: Reading and Communication for Civics* (McGraw-Hill).

E. Lynn Savage will train ESL study circle leaders and kick off KYAE's first ESL study circles using her video series *Teacher Training through Videos*. Lynn will return in January 2008 to wrap up the study circles. Lynn is from California where she has more than 40 years experience in teaching ESL students and training ESL practitioners. She is best known for *On Common Ground* and *Crossroads Café*.

Online PD opportunities

The Center for Literacy Studies at the University of Tennessee and the Ohio Literacy Resource Center at Kent State are presenting a series of online trainings for adult educators starting April 30. The trainings are conducted by adult education practitioners with many hours of experience in online facilitation.

To learn more, visit the AE Pro [Web site](#). To register for courses, [click here](#). Some of the courses are described below. KYAE PD funding may be used for the registration fee.

Course Name: Adult Education Teacher and Student

Cost - \$149/person

How do we teach adults? Research concludes that adults learn differently than children. Then why do we so often teach them in the same way? Many practitioners come to adult education with little or no background in "adults as learners." Through this online course, you will look at adult learners by reviewing background statistics on the GED, learning disabilities in adults and what brain research says about how adult learners learn best.

Course Name: ESOL Basics

Cost - \$149/person

Do you need to know the basics of instruction for English speakers of other languages (ESOL)? You will learn how to identify characteristics of adult ESOL learners, effective methods of teaching languages, the four language skills and how adults learn another language.

Course Name: Integration of Technology into the Adult Education Classroom

Cost - \$149/person

Have you ever tried to put a puzzle together without knowing what the final picture will look like? This may be happening when you try to integrate computer technology into your classroom. This course will provide quick access to educational resources, lesson plans, activities, tools for evaluating educational software, information about purchasing educational software and knowledge to help you utilize a variety of software applications and Web-based activities in the classroom.

PD Connection is back!

PD Connection, KYAE's professional development newsletter, is back after an extended hiatus. The new issue is available under the "What's New" column at www.kyae.ky.gov. Find many interesting and valuable articles on student retention and motivation.

Keenan opens with "Adult Ed Rocks"

U.S. Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy Director Cheryl Keenan opened the recent COABE conference with the theme "Adult Ed Rocks." She pointed to the program's new "effective" rating, the highest rating available, on the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). She said nearly 1000 programs were evaluated, including 89 education programs. Only three other education programs achieved an "effective" rating.

Keenan congratulated adult educators on positive program achievements such as serving eight times as many adults as all other similar federal programs combined. She also reviewed the Office of Adult and Vocational Education's efforts to improve instructional quality, including research to improve the teaching of reading and implementing standard-based education in classrooms. She urged conferees to "accomplish even more" by trying new ways of doing business and rising to the challenge of helping adults achieve their goals.

TABE PC discount

KYAE local programs may receive a 35 percent discount on TABE PC administrations by using the order form posted on the KYAE [Forms Web page](#).

Please allow us to introduce...

"Please allow us to introduce..." is a monthly feature spotlighting KYAE staff members to help adult educators become more familiar with KYAE staff. This issue features Amanda Walker.

Amanda Walker

Amanda Walker is an executive secretary assisting PD staff members. Among her many duties are scheduling meetings, preparing materials for meetings and trainings and processing travel paperwork. She has been part of the KYAE staff for nearly a year and a half.

She has completed two years at the University of Kentucky and plans to pursue her degree in computer information systems this fall at Midway College. Amanda and her husband live in Midway with their two boys, Samuel, age 3, and Oliver, age 1, and two kitties who consider themselves part of the family – Sega, a black Bombay, and Bartleby, a gray tabby.

Fun fact: Amanda loves to cook, bake, paint and work in her garden. A confirmed "homebody," she is happiest when at home with family and friends.

Valuable links

The [Office of Vocational and Adult Education](#) has a new look and several new topical pages – [health literacy](#), [English literacy and civics education](#), [mathematics in adult education](#).

An excellent Web site for family literacy PACT and parenting activity ideas is www.thebestkidsbooksite.com.

NCSALL, the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy, has released a report, [The Relationship of the Component Skills of Reading to IALS Performance: Tipping Points and Five Classes of Adult Literacy Learners](#). The study's aim was to understand the relationship of the component skills of reading, such as word recognition, vocabulary, and spelling, to large-scale measures of literacy, such as the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey and the closely related International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS).

Adult students are becoming more common on college campuses, and many face deficiencies in academic preparation. Another NCSALL report, [Transitioning Adults to College: Adult Basic Education Program Models](#), reviews five adult basic education-to-college transition program models.

The rates of college degree attainment are increasing faster in almost every developed nation than in the United States. [Tough Choices or Tough Times](#), a report from the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, proposes a plan to improve education in the United States and increase competitiveness in the global marketplace.